

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. 1. An authentication method comprising the steps of:
2. generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;
3. generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,
4. wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security
5. context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.

1. 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of saving said first security
2. context.

1. 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of saving said first security context
2. comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1. 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving a user logoff.

1. 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of destroying said second
2. security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.

1. 6. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of reverting to said first
2. security context in response to a user logoff.

1. 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of reverting to said first security context

2 comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1 8. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of determining an access
2 permission in response to said second security context.

1 9. A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the
2 program product comprising a program of instructions for performing the method steps
3 of:

4 generating a first security context in response to a first user authentication;
5 generating a second security context in response to a second user authentication,
6 wherein said second security context aggregates said first security context and a security
7 context corresponding to an identity in said second user authentication.

1 10. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing
2 the step of saving said first security context.

1 11. The program product of claim 10 wherein said step of saving said first security
2 context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1 12. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing
2 the step of receiving a user logoff.

1 13. The program product of claim 12 further comprising instructions for performing
2 the step of destroying said second security context in response to said step of receiving
3 said user logoff.

1 14. The program product of claim 10 further comprising instructions for performing
2 the step of reverting to said first security context in response to a user logoff.

1 15. The program product of claim 14 wherein said step of reverting to said first
2 security context comprises the step of popping said first security context off of a stack.

1 16. The program product of claim 9 further comprising instructions for performing
2 the step of determining an access permission in response to said second security context.

1 17. A data processing system comprising:
2 circuitry operable for generating a first security context in response to a first user
3 authentication;
4 circuitry operable for generating a second security context in response to a second user
5 authentication, wherein said second security context aggregates said first security
6 context and a security context corresponding to an identity in said second user
7 authentication.

1 18. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for saving said first
2 security context.

1 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said circuitry operable for saving said first
2 security context comprises the step of pushing said first security context on a stack.

1 20. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for receiving a user
2 logoff.

1 21. The system of claim 20 further comprising circuitry operable for destroying said
2 second security context in response to said step of receiving said user logoff.

1 22. The system of claim 18 further comprising circuitry operable for reverting to said
2 first security context in response to a user logoff.

- 1 23. The system of claim 22 wherein said circuitry operable for reverting to said first
- 2 security context comprises circuitry operable for popping said first security context off
- 3 of a stack.

- 1 24. The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for determining
- 2 an access permission in response to said second security context.